

8.13 Context Sensitive Solutions

Incorporate *Context Sensitive Solutions* (CSS) into your design processes. CSS is a project development approach in which designers recognize and evaluate the affected community's values and objectives in relation to the design of the project. These community values may be scenic, aesthetic, historic, environmental, etc. in nature.

Key elements of CSS (from NCHRP Report 480):

1. The project satisfies the purpose and needs as agreed to by a full range of stakeholders. This agreement is forged in the earliest phase of the project and amended as warranted as the project develops.
2. The project is a safe facility both for the use and the community.
3. The project is in harmony with the community and preserves environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, and natural resource values of the area.
4. The project exceeds the expectations of both the designers and stakeholders and achieves a level of excellence in people's minds.
5. The project involves efficient and effective use of resources (such as time, budget, and community) of all involved parties.
6. The project is designed and built with minimal disruption to the community.
7. The project is seen as having added lasting value to the community.

CDOT's design professionals determine which design solutions best fit, given the site's condition and context.

Additional References:

1. National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 480

